

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2016 6:52 AM
To: HarborComments <HarborComments@epa.gov>
Subject: Make sure cleanup protect jobs

Why doesn't the EPA care more about our economy and jobs?

I am all for a clean river. We all enjoy visiting the parks and trails near the Willamette. But I also know that the river helps produce millions in wages and sales for people and companies in the Portland harbor. Please be sure that your plan is good for them, too.

EPA has a long track record of dramatically understating cost estimates and construction timelines. True costs and time to completion will likely be at least double, if not more.

That's because EPA's estimates include a number of unrealistic and inaccurate assumptions: (1) dredging 24hours/6days/week; (2) seamless dredging with no breaks to reposition barges between cleanup areas, install sheet pile walls or account for unforeseen circumstances such as equipment failure; (3) availability of necessary dredge and barge equipment during fish windows.

The primary cost burden in the EPA proposal will fall on local businesses, local government and local ratepayers, negatively impacting jobs and Portland's most vulnerable citizens, contrary to the claims made by some stakeholders. Portlanders are likely to see increased water/sewer fees and utility bills.

All of this for a proposed remedy based on data that is more than 10 years old and ignoring more recent sampling showing that the river is naturally recovering.

I would guess that you'll get a ton of comments. I just hope that you remember that the river here is important for our recreation but that it also supports jobs and helps put food on the tables of good, hard-working American people.

Sincerely,

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